

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE WATER COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Water Commission convened in a regular session at 7:05 p.m. on Wednesday, August 16, 2006 in the West Annex meeting room.

2. ROLL CALL / MOTIONS FOR EXCUSED ABSENCE

Present: Commissioners Deemer, Lew, Rizzardi, Warner, White, and Chairperson Hoffman.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden, Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich, and Metropolitan Water District Director Wright.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Warner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Deemer seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the July 20, 2006 Water Commission meeting were not available.

6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**6A. PROPOSED CONVERSION OF TORRANCE MUNICIPAL WATER LOCAL
WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES TO FLUORIDATION**

The Commission welcomed Edgar Dymally, Senior Environmental Specialist with Metropolitan Water District; Dr. Tim Collins, Dental Director for the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services; and Dr. David Nelson, a fluoridation consultant with the California Department of Health Services.

Dr. Collins provided an overview of fluoridation issues, the science of fluoridation, its proven benefits, and the historical development regarding supplemental fluoridation in the United States since the 1940's. He reported that approximately 65% of all domestic water systems in the U.S. currently fluoridate their water supplies to an optimized level, noting that the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power as well as the cities of Long Beach, Santa Monica, and Inglewood have decided to fluoridate their water supplies within the last two years.

He stated that he previously served as chairperson of the California Fluoridation 2010 Committee which has taken an active role in promoting the benefits of fluoridation and functions as a facilitator to obtain outside funding to reimburse water agencies for capital costs associated with conversion to fluoride treatment. He reviewed the provisions of AB733 that mandates water agencies to provide fluoridation if outside funding is available to pay for capital conversion costs. He noted, however, that this statute has rarely, if ever, been used to force water agencies to fluoridate their potable water supplies and that the dental health community has focused on outreach and educational programs to convince water agencies to provide fluoridation. He noted that this and other affiliated groups were successful in securing outside funding to reimburse agencies for a majority of their fluoride treatment capital conversion costs. He stated that MWD, the primary wholesaler of imported water supplies to Southern California, would receive supplemental funding for most of its fluoridation conversion costs.

Responding to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, Dr. Collins indicated that every \$1 of investment in fluoridation yields a reduction of \$119 in dental health costs.

MWD Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally added that fluoridation operation and maintenance costs would probably have to be met from the utilities' own funds or, in the case of investor-owner utilities, from their rate base.

Dr. Nelson reported that he was a practicing dentist and oral surgeon for many years prior to becoming a consultant to the CDHS on fluoridation issues. He related the benefits of fluoridation as observed in his former dental practice, as well as in numerous documented scientific studies. He stated that fluoridation has been one of the most studied topics in the medical field over the last 50 years and that overwhelming evidence supported both the safety and effectiveness of fluoridation. He noted that fluoridation was recognized as one of the top ten preventative public health measures in the past 50 years and that most California communities already provide supplemental fluoridation.

In response to Chairperson Hoffman's inquiry, he indicated that the annual cost of providing fluoridation varies from \$.50 to \$2.25 per person and that the total capital cost is approximately \$100 million. He noted that several dental and medical foundations such as First Five and California Endowment have provided substantial reimbursement for water agency capital conversion costs. He indicated that fluoridation was in a sense an unfunded mandate, but that there has been outside funding to partially pay for conversion costs, including a \$5.5 million grant to MWD for conversion of its treatment facilities.

Dr. Collins and Dr. Nelson stated that, if approved, they as well as MWD would assist the City in securing reimbursement for conversion capital costs.

Responding to Commissioners' inquiries regarding optimization levels, Dr. Collins stated that the optimum fluoride content is .7 parts per million and that levels did not dissipate while in the distribution level. He noted that customers not wanting to have supplemental fluoride in their water supply could install household reverse osmosis treatment devices that would remove the fluoride.

Senior Environmental Specialist Dymally stated that MWD would be conducting an extensive public information campaign and providing resource materials to water agencies prior to actual conversion as well as providing technical and outside funding assistance.

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reiterated that the reason that Torrance Municipal Water would provide supplemental fluoridation to local supplies would be to keep local supplies compatible with imported MWD purchased supplies. He explained that MWD currently provides more than 85% of TMW's potable water demand and that supplemental fluoridation of local supplies would match the level of MWD's optimized fluoridation to maintain uniformity of the water supply.

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to concur with staff recommendation that City Council authorize proceeding with conversion to fluoridation water treatment and to pursue outside funding opportunities to offset conversion costs. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rizzardi and passed 5-1 as reflected in the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioners Lew, Rizzardi, Warner, White and Hoffman.
NOES: Commissioner Deemer.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7A. PRESENTATION BY SOUTH BAY CITIES COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (SBCCOG) REGARDING THEIR MISSION AND ROLE IN ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Senior Administrative Analyst Schaich introduced the item and welcomed SBCCOG Executive Director Jacki Bacharach, Program Manager Marilyn Lyon, and Environmental Deputy Michele Swanson.

Executive Director Bacharach provided a power point presentation regarding the formation, goals, and both the traditional and emerging roles of SBCCOG. She indicated that SBCCOG is a joint powers agency composed of the 15 South Bay cities including Torrance. She stated that SBCCOG's main objective was to maximize the quality of life and productivity of the greater South Bay area through the cooperative participation of its member cities on various issues of a regional or sub-regional nature. She stated that over the years SBCCOG's role has expanded into a number of areas including energy conservation and that it has been an active marketing resource for a number of Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas (SCG) energy incentive and rebate programs since 2003. She noted that last year, with grants from SCE and SCG, SBCCOG established the City's Energy Center to provide a clearinghouse for energy and conservation efficiency programs.

Program Manager Lyon reported that interdependency between energy use and water consumption led to discussions with West Basin Municipal Water District and the City's Public Works Department on ways to jointly promote and implement energy and water conservation programs. She noted that the water utility industry currently accounts for nearly 20% of the State's annual energy use and, as a result, a partnership was being formed between SBCCOG, Torrance, and West Basin Municipal to have the Energy Center market a number of enhanced water conservation programs in conjunction with energy incentive programs that include a laundromat retrofit program; public restroom retrofits; landscape audits and irrigation; high efficiently toilet direct install programs; and promotion of water efficient landscape classes. She indicated that these and other proposed conservation programs would be actively marketed in conjunction with energy efficiency programs to the commercial, institutional, industrial, and residential sectors. She noted that the Energy Center was well equipped to market

these programs through a many outreach programs that include information dissemination at the Center, its web site, newsletters, and numerous workshops, seminars and special events that the Center conducts throughout the South Bay area. She also indicated that the Center was active in direct procurement programs of energy savings devices including high efficiency fluorescent light bulbs, vending machine energy saving devices, computer power saving devices and other equipment, which is distributed to businesses and institutional customers at their discounted cost.

Chairperson Hoffman commented that the State Public Utilities was considering setting aside a portion of electric and natural gas utility bills for the promotion and development of water conservation programs that also save energy resources.

MWD Director Wright reiterated that the water industry is the highest user of electrical energy in the State, accounting for 20% of total consumption.

Commissioner Low commented that SBCCOG could provide a natural synergy to market water conservation programs.

7B. PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL, AND RESIDENTIAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH SBCCOG AND WEST BASIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT

Staff presented a report regarding the development of partnership agreements with both SBCCOG and West Basin Municipal Water District to jointly implement a number of high priority water conservation programs in the South Bay. In this proposed tri-party arrangement, the City would contract with SBCCOG to market enhanced water conservation programs in conjunction with its energy programs and with West Basin Municipal to implement these programs. The WBMWD is currently in the process of executing a contract with SBCCOG to market these programs within their service area. The enhanced programs would primarily focus on the commercial and institutional sectors and include public restroom, commercial laundromat, and landscape audit and irrigation retrofit programs; a high efficiency toilet change out program; and implementation of water efficient landscape classes. The joint partnership provides uniformity in implementation of these conservation programs and provides a new paradigm for the development and implementation of additional combined energy and water conservation programs in the future. The proposed agreements with the SBCCOG and WBMWD would be for a two-year period and the cost to TMW would be \$20,000 for the marketing services agreement with SBCCOG and \$115,000 for the implementation services agreement with WBMWD.

MOTION: Commissioner Rizzardi moved to recommend that the Water Commission concur with staff proposal to enter into a joint partnership with both the South Bay Cities Council of Governments and West Basin Municipal Water District for the marketing and implementation of various enhanced water conservation programs. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

8. WEST BASIN WATER ASSOCIATION REPORT

Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden reported that topics of discussion at the August 1, 2006 West Basin Water Association meeting included the Water Master as well as West Basin and Water Replenishment District updates. He provided information about the initial meeting of the Desalter Working Group on July 24, 2006 to discuss options regarding the Goldsworthy Desalter.

9. MONTHLY DEPARTMENT REPORT

MOTION: Commissioner White moved to accept and file the Deputy Public Works Director's Report for July 2006 as presented. Commissioner Warner seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

9. METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

MWD Director Wright reported on status of the Center for Water Education being developed in the City of Hemet adjacent to Diamond Valley Lake. He reported on MWD's expansion of rebates for new conservation devices that include rotator sprinkler nozzles, water efficient steam sterilizers, and high efficiency urinals for new commercial developments. He also reported that the MWD Board approved a new education plan that will include a new component on native plants and outdoor water conservation. He informed the Commission that three MWD directors, Tim Brick, Gene Koopman, and Randy Record, declared their candidacy for chairmanship of the Board of Directors.

11. ORALS

11A. Commissioner White stated that she welcomed increased public outreach that SBCCOG could provide in the area of water conservation.

11B. Commissioner Deemer inquired about savings derived from the City's switch to LED signal lights and Deputy Public Works Director van der Linden responded that the current savings was \$50,000 to \$60,000 per year.

10C. Commissioner Deemer suggested that the Department discuss fluoridation with the City of Beverly Hills.

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: At 9:45 p.m., Commissioner Warner, seconded by Commissioner Deemer, moved to adjourn the meeting to September 21, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. in the West Annex Commission Meeting Room and, hearing no objection, Chairperson Hoffman so ordered.

Approved as Submitted March 15, 2007 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
